

**Call For Papers**

**For publication in ADVANCING CORRECTIONS**

**ISSUE # 17**

**“Designing a Humane Corrections: Possibilities and Challenges”**

**Journal Of the International Corrections And Prisons Association**

**PLEASE SUBMIT BY March 15th, 2024**

**Aims And Scope Of Advancing Corrections**

ICPA believes that development of a professional and humane corrections should be grounded in evidence. Respect for evidence is a hallmark of ICPA. But evidence is of little value unless it is understood and put into action. Our semi-annual Journal, *Advancing Corrections*, intends to fill the need for researchers to speak more clearly to practitioners and practitioners to speak in a more evidence-informed way to their colleagues. We provide a forum for both researchers and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines (criminal justice, education, psychology, sociology, political science, economics, public health, and social work) to publish papers that examine issues from a unique, interdisciplinary, and global perspective. Your paper could be an evidence-informed discussion of an important correctional issue, an overview of new research findings and their implications for practice, a description of an innovative program or approach, or an informed commentary on some aspect of managing a key issue in corrections.

The Journal invites submission of papers that can be digested and appreciated by practitioners, managers, policy-makers, academics, and other correctional professionals. Authors are welcomed to submit papers for one of three sections of the Journal:

* *Featured Research Articles* should be more research oriented and scholarly, including the usual practice of referencing the relevant literature.
* *Views and Reviews* are shorter and thoughtful discussions of relevant or emerging issues/topics.
* *Practice Innovation in Corrections* aims to profile what is going on in a given agency/jurisdiction that is especially innovative and can be of interest broadly to others.

**Theme for The 17th Edition: “Designing a Humane Corrections: Possibilities and Challenges”**

Historically, voices of reform have pushed corrections to become more *‘humane,’* even if their emphasis has changed over time. Going back to the 1800s, and as illustrated by the “Pennsylvania model,” these efforts centred on using the built environment to encourage penitence and silent reflection. More recently, correctional reform has been heavily inspired by Scandinavian practice, emphasizing the design of more normalized and human-service oriented prison environments and a focus on effective community reintegration.

Though there has been obvious variation worldwide, the push towards becoming more *humane* over the last several hundred years has certainly influenced prison design. In many places it has also created growing respect for human rights, broadly sought to improve prison conditions, helped introduce more rehabilitative interventions, and perhaps, most importantly, encouraged more widespread adoption of alternatives to custody. In other places, these ideals serve as a benchmark for how much some correctional services can still be improved, and the resistance to reform efforts is a reminder that not all share a *humane* view of corrections or its goals.

We may not have a yardstick to measure the level of *‘humaneness’* we may have achieved over the last decades, but there would be broad agreement that we have made progress. Systemic change in some places and the emergence of innovative policies and pilot projects in others highlight these successes. It’s important to acknowledge this progress but without falling into complacency and thinking we may have achieved enough. Low resource countries may find it more difficult to be consistently *humane* but the reality is that we find instances of indisputable inhumanity even in the most well-developed jurisdictions.

We can now refer to a comprehensive set of rules and standards that many believe every correctional system should aim to follow (e.g., UN Mandela Rules, EU Prison Rules, ACA Accreditation Standards). These set out an ideological and practical floor for conditions of *humane* control, but we also know that many jurisdictions have not embraced them, and some who have cannot provide certain services or follow recommended practices for very practical reasons. At the core, even in the face of a growing consensus, we must still unpack what can best encourage and reinforce *‘humaneness’* in corrections: is it the physical space, rules, and standards, or is there an underlying attitude and set of values, held by leaders and front-line staff, that is needed to create a *humane* correctional culture in which people always behave justly and fairly, compassionately and benevolently?

For this **Edition # 17** of Advancing Corrections we would like to explore the theme of *“Designing a Humane Corrections: Possibilities and Challenges”* … with a focus on what types of settings, programs, services, activities, policies and/or practices can make a difference in encouraging and spreading *‘humaneness’* throughout a correctional service. We invite reasoned and informed arguments about, or research on:

* The theoretical and practical goals of *humane* incarceration, with a specific focus on the built environment, standards or regulations, staff and leadership training and/or innovative policy or programs;
* Efforts beyond the prison environment, including those that create a more *humane* (and effective) Community Supervision practice ethos, those that take place during the reentry period (e.g., halfway houses), and those that focus on facilitating humanity for justice-involved people in the community;
* Efforts in treating particular justice-involved groups with greater *humanity*, and especially the mentally ill and mentally unwell and those under pre-trial detention;
* How a more *humane* approach in corrections can serve multiple aims of supporting change in justice-involved individuals while contributing to public safety and increasing staff motivation and well-being;
* Discussion of how a focus on effectiveness and efficiency may not always be *‘humane’*;
* Designing ways of working with our justice-involved client group with more *dignity* (in assessing them, treating them, and managing and controlling them);
* For low-resource jurisdictions or those facing other significant cultural or social barriers to reform, descriptions of challenges in introducing ‘system-level’ change aimed at enhancing respect for human rights;
* Attempts to create *humane* (normalized!) regimes in prisons and its impact on both staff and justice-involved individuals;
* The benefits of partnerships with NGOs, other government sectors, research institutions and other stakeholders;
* Challenges in recruiting & training staff as *humane* professionals;
* Creating *humane* organizations within the non-profit and NGO sectors, especially those that can partner with government to reach goals not possible alone;
* New empirical research findings are especially welcomed in identifying what can make a measurable difference in helping shape corrections toward greater *’humaneness’*;

Before submitting your manuscript, we ask that you please provide a succinct summary of how your paper will specifically relate to the overall Theme of the Edition or any particular sub-theme. Your manuscript may not be accepted without this.

**How Should You Submit Your Paper?**

Manuscripts should follow the ***Guidelines for Authors*** for the Journal. Suggested page length is from 7 to 15 pages (about 2,000 to 5,000 word-count), although lengthier research-oriented manuscripts or reviews may be considered based on merit. Whenever appropriate, papers should include referencing of other related scholarly work, though it is emphasized that *Advancing Corrections* is not intended as an academic publication. Papers should be respectful of evidence but they should be written in a way that appeals to practitioners. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to **Frank Porporino**, Ph.D., Chair of the ICPA Research and Development Network and Editor of Advancing Corrections (fporporino@rogers.com). A copy should also be forwarded to the ICPA Membership Liaison and Project Support Officer, **Ilinca Cojocaru** at the ICPA Head Office (ilincacojocaru@icpa.org).

**What Will Happen to Your Paper?**

*Advancing Corrections* has an international Editorial Review Board and submitted papers **will undergo a formal and rigorous ‘peer review’ process**. The ICPA Research and Development (R&D) Network is committed to finding more and better ways of communicating research-informed knowledge to the ICPA membership. Many of the members of the group serve as reviewers of submitted manuscripts.

The Editor of *Advancing Corrections* will manage the process of selecting manuscripts for review. For this special Edition, in choosing the final set of papers to be included, the Editor may be consulting with several key members of the ICPA R&D Network as Associate Editors. Papers that may not be suitable for publication may nonetheless be posted on the ICPA Web Site or included in the ICPA Newsletter for the information of ICPA members.

Please note that we will not accept papers that are submitted after the deadline for a given Edition of *Advancing Corrections*.

It is policy of the Journal to encourage the use of ‘humanizing’ language in referring to those individuals we incarcerate or supervise in the community (e.g., refer to justice involved individuals rather than ‘offenders’ or ‘prisoners’). We ask Authors to make use of more humanizing language throughout their manuscripts.

*Please note as well that we will not accept papers that simply attempt to promote a particular product or market a particular method or service without supportive evidence of effectiveness. Advancing Corrections is not a marketing vehicle. It is a professional Journal intended to broaden our knowledge base in corrections.*

A digital version of each Journal Edition is posted on the ICPA Website and becomes accessible by all ICPA full members around the world.  In addition, several hundred copies of the print version are mailed to ICPA Professional Members, Corrections Agency and Private Sector Executives around the world, as well as all authors & our AC Editorial Board members.  If you believe that evidence and facts should be the drivers for change in corrections rather than ungrounded opinion or ideology, please consider supporting our ICPA Journal.